January 18, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FROM: GEORGE ECKERT, INVESTIGATOR

RE: INTERVIEW OF SAM NEWMAN, W/M, Age 50 Years.
(Former owner of Newman Bldg., 544 Camp St.)

I interviewed Mr. Sam Newman at 1:30 P.M. on January 18, 1967 with regard to Guy Banister & Associates and the "Free Cuban Movement".

Mr. Newman told me at this time that he didn't have any of his records as he had given all of them to the F.B.I. and the U. S. Secret Service. Mr. Newman asked me whether or not the Office of the District Attorney or I was investigating the death of President Kennedy. I told him it was something stemming from this. He then told me he had heard about this before and that one Jack Martin told him that he would probably be called upon to be interviewed.

Mr. Newman told me that when he bought the building from Metro Realty (Mr. Copping), Guy Banister had already been a tenant in the building; that he could not remember any dates because he didn't have his records; but that during the time he owned the building Guy Banister had owed him back rent (amount unknown); that when Banister got into trouble with the Internal Revenue, all the furniture in Banister's office had been seized, including the files. Mr. Newman purchased all the office furniture, including 5 filing cabinets, from the Internal Revenue hoping he could recover some of the money owed to him for back rent. The office furniture he kept and he can't remember what had happened to it. The 5 files (metal cabinets and contents) were sold to Mrs. Banister for $25.00 (date unknown). She had them removed from his building on Camp Street to her home on Canal Boulevard.

Mr. Newman said that he could not remember the names of the people who were his tenants back in 1963, but that many of them owed him back rent when they left. Mr. Newman also told me that the Federal people and the Secret Service have questioned him on several occasions about the "Fair Play For Cuba Movement" and the people involved, and that they would have all of the information. He said he could not remember anything at all about 1962 and 1963 without his records.

It is the opinion of the interviewer that Mr. Newman was annoyed by the interview and it appeared that he did not want to become involved in this investigation, therefore, the interview was very short.

GEORGE ECKERT